

89 01433

# CITY OF ALBANY

PROGRESS REPORT 1974

INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENTAL  
STUDIES LIBRARY

OCT 29 1985

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

89 01433



ALBANY started its existence as an incorporated city under the name of Ocean View, September 22, 1908. At a special election held October 30, 1909, thirty-two votes were cast to change the name to Albany, while six votes requested the name remain Ocean View. In selecting Albany as the name of the city, the citizens honored Frank J. Roberts, the first mayor, who was born in Albany, New York.



ALBANY DURING ITS INFANCY  
Note Sonoma Avenue in the upper right corner



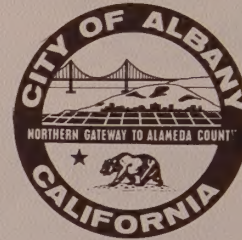
RECENT PICTURE OF THE CITY OF ALBANY

ALBANY in the year 1913 had an assessed valuation of \$1,957,500 with a tax rate of seventy-five cents per one hundred dollars. The population had grown to approximately 1,500 persons within the city limits. By the year 1918 there were six hundred forty-three families living in the city, and the population had grown to two thousand, three hundred fifty people.



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## A REPORT TO YOU FROM MAYOR HOWELL



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### TO MY FELLOW CITIZENS OF ALBANY:

Albany, an important Bay City, has grown and prospered. I believe it appropriate at this time to examine our facilities and services, and to appraise the adequacy of our plans for the future.

As the need developed, new departments and services have been added to all facets of our city government. One of the important changes has been the conversion of a small town, struggling at the crossroads, to a modern city that still retains the pride and respect of its citizens as it travels onward in progress and diversification.

We have passed our 64th anniversary . . . a city in the heart of a metropolitan colossus, and now look forward to the years ahead with a renewed sense of responsibility to bring to reality the early hopes and ambitions of our predecessors . . . men and women who dreamed of a great little city, meeting an important need and rendering a comprehensive service to all who join us in developing our city.

. . . And while we take pride in telling you of our early days and of our present facilities, our real concern is that we utilize these accomplishments of the past and our improved position of the present as a basis upon which to constantly build a greater future for our citizenry.

. . . This brochure has been planned to show you, the citizen, that we are planning to move ahead . . .  
Planning to meet the constantly changing and highly demanding requirements of our rapidly growing community . . .  
Planning to meet the challenge of the years ahead with vision, integrity and with confidence.





## ALBANY'S CITY COUNCIL

The past few years of progress in Albany have added significant accomplishments for our Community. It is with pride that we, your elected officials, submit this report of this progress to the citizens of Albany.

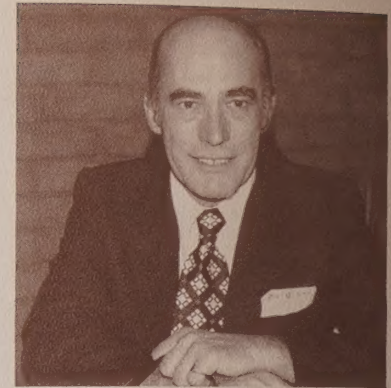
This report is designed to highlight some of the many services provided to the people of our City. We have attempted to bring about a better knowledge of what your city government is . . . How it has worked to make Albany a good city in which to live, work and play. We further hope that it will bring about an increased interest in your Community and more active citizen participation.

Changes have occurred and will continue to occur. Each year we attempt to direct our resources through the Annual Budget in such a manner as to provide the improvements that are necessary to keep our City up to date and to keep pace with today's progress. This we hope to accomplish without placing a burden upon our taxpayers . . . to continue a high standard of civic performance.

Your Councilmen welcome your suggestions for improvements. Every resident must recognize that he is a part of our vital and growing municipality. . . . The strength of our City rests with your concern and constructive participation. We must have public sentiment to improve our services to you; without it, success turns to failure.



COUNCILMAN GEORGE HEIN  
Vice Mayor & Police Commissioner



COUNCILMAN JOE CARLEVARO  
Fire Commissioner



COUNCILMAN RICHARD CLARK  
Parks & Recreation Commissioner



COUNCILMAN HUBERT CALL  
Public Works Commissioner





City Attorney  
LAWRENCE D. SALER

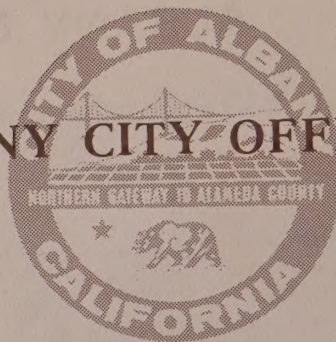


City Administrator  
JAMES B. TURNER



Chief of Police  
JAMES R. SIMMONS

# ALBANY CITY OFFICIALS



Finance Director  
BETTE RHODES



Superintendent of Park  
and Recreation Department  
EMILE J. ROONEY



City Clerk  
PATRICIA GEORGE



Fire Chief  
GERALD D. BROWNE



City Treasurer  
BETTY de LUCHI



Health Officer  
DR. ROBERT MC MAHON



# ALBANY CITY GOVERNMENT

## ALBANY CITY COUNCIL

The City Council is the elective legislative body of the City consisting of five members whose term of office is four years. The Mayor is chosen annually by the Council members to serve as their Chairman and, thus, as the executive head of the City.

## ALBANY CITY CLERK

The office of City Clerk is provided for in the Charter adopted in the year 1927.

As clerk of the Council, the City Clerk attends all meetings and maintains records of all proceedings, keeping files and indexes to all ordinances and resolutions. The City Clerk is the official keeper of the City Seal.

All city elections are conducted by the City Clerk.

## ALBANY HEALTH OFFICER

The City Charter makes provisions for a Health Officer to be appointed by the City Council. It requires a licensed person to practice medicine in the State of California. He exercises general supervision over the health and cleanliness of the city, and makes rules and regulations for the preservation and promotion thereof.

## ALBANY CITY TREASURER

Provided for in the City Charter of 1927, the City Treasurer is elected every four years, setting forth as the official duty:

" . . . to receive and safely keep all monies and securities belonging to the City coming into his hands."

In addition, the City Treasurer has various duties assigned that office by the City Council.



ALBANY CITY COUNCIL IN SESSION

## ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

The Administrative Officer is appointed by the Council and is responsible for the day-by-day supervision of City services as directed by the City Council, and in keeping with their policies. He is responsible for the presentation of the annual City Budget, for salary negotiations with employee groups, and for keeping the Council advised as to the financial condition and needs of the City.

## ALBANY FINANCE OFFICER

In 1968, a division of Administrative Service and the position of Finance Director was established.

The Finance Department is charged with duties to all municipal functions relating to the preparation, auditing and disbursement of claims and demands against the City, including payroll.

## ALBANY CITY ATTORNEY

The City Attorney is the legal advisor of the Council, and all other City Officials on matters appertaining to their official duties. He drafts all ordinances, resolutions, contracts and performs such other legal services that the City Council requires.

## DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

The Director of Public Works in the City of Albany has several functions broken between building regulations, planning and zoning administration, superintendent of streets and other public facilities. He, with the assistance of the various employees, sees to the construction of all private buildings in accordance with appropriate codes and regulations, supervises all construction contracts and makes recommendations to the Council and Planning Commission concerning various matters.





## MILESTONES IN ALBANY'S PROGRESS

Albany started its existence as an incorporated city under the name of Ocean View, September 22, 1908. During the first year of the young city, six electric lights were installed, for which the Oakland Gas, Light and Heat Company was to be paid seven dollars and fifty cents each month. What a contrast today with San Pablo and Solano Avenues brilliantly illuminated and ranking with the best lighted streets in the west.



Albany has made a very important contribution to the safety of its citizens by supplying them with emergency ambulance service.

Recently the Police and Fire Services of Albany combined to provide better and more efficient service for its citizens in need of emergency care. This service requires extensive training so that our personnel will be prepared to perform a wide variety of emergency care and rescue functions in addition to first aid.



For years, the small isolated hill that has proven a landmark to many a weary traveler was held back in its development by the lack of water pressure necessary to meet the hill's elevation. Today, a special water main efficiently feeds the entire hill area.

Beautiful homes and modern apartments are now taking advantage of the beautiful view, while approximately 10 acres of land is permanently assured as an open space park. This land on the northern portion of the hill has been made possible by the donation of property from the Interstate General Corporation.





Albany City officials, over the last ten years, have worked efficiently with sound pre-planning to keep ahead of the rapidly rising traffic volumes. Traffic signals have been installed to protect both the pedestrians and motorists while control signs have been strategically placed where needed.

One of the finest examples of pre-planning and efficient engineering in Albany was when Buchanan Street was widened and divided and the traffic bottleneck at the Southern Pacific tracks was relieved by the Buchanan Street Overpass. Today more than 15,000 vehicles travel Buchanan Street each twenty-four hours.

Finance for the construction of the Overpass was obtained from the State and County Gas Tax Fund, Public Utility Commission Grade Separation Fund, and the Southern Pacific Railroad, with only 1.3% supplied by purely local funds.



Street improvements on Solano Avenue were completed in early 1971. This work consisted of widening with a heavy asphalt concrete cover overlaying the old surface. Bulbed curb sections at the corners were designed to delineate and protect parking areas and to provide areas for planter boxes, benches and other items of landscaping and beautification.

In the facelifting of the street that was formerly Main Street, the undergrounding of wiring and the installation of a modern lighting system was completed between Jackson and Tulare Streets. This was accomplished with the cooperation of property owners, Pacific Gas and Electric Company and the Pacific Telephone Company.

The addition of a new Electric Accounting Machine has developed a modern accounting system in the Finance Department. The system has made possible the investment of idle funds for short periods of time. Among other fabulous performances, it has increased efficiency and saved time in making payrolls, claims and warrants, all budget postings, monthly and yearly reports, W-2 forms and social security reports.



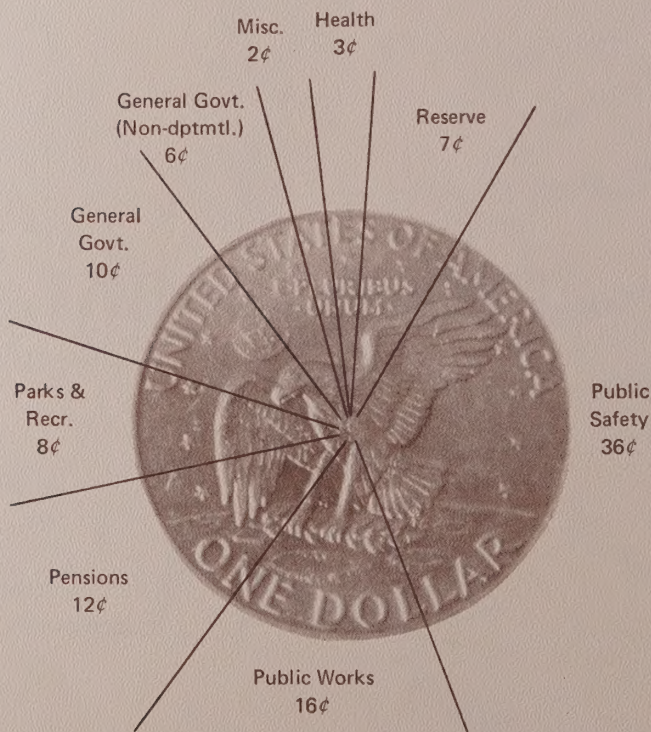


# CITY OF ALBANY FINANCES

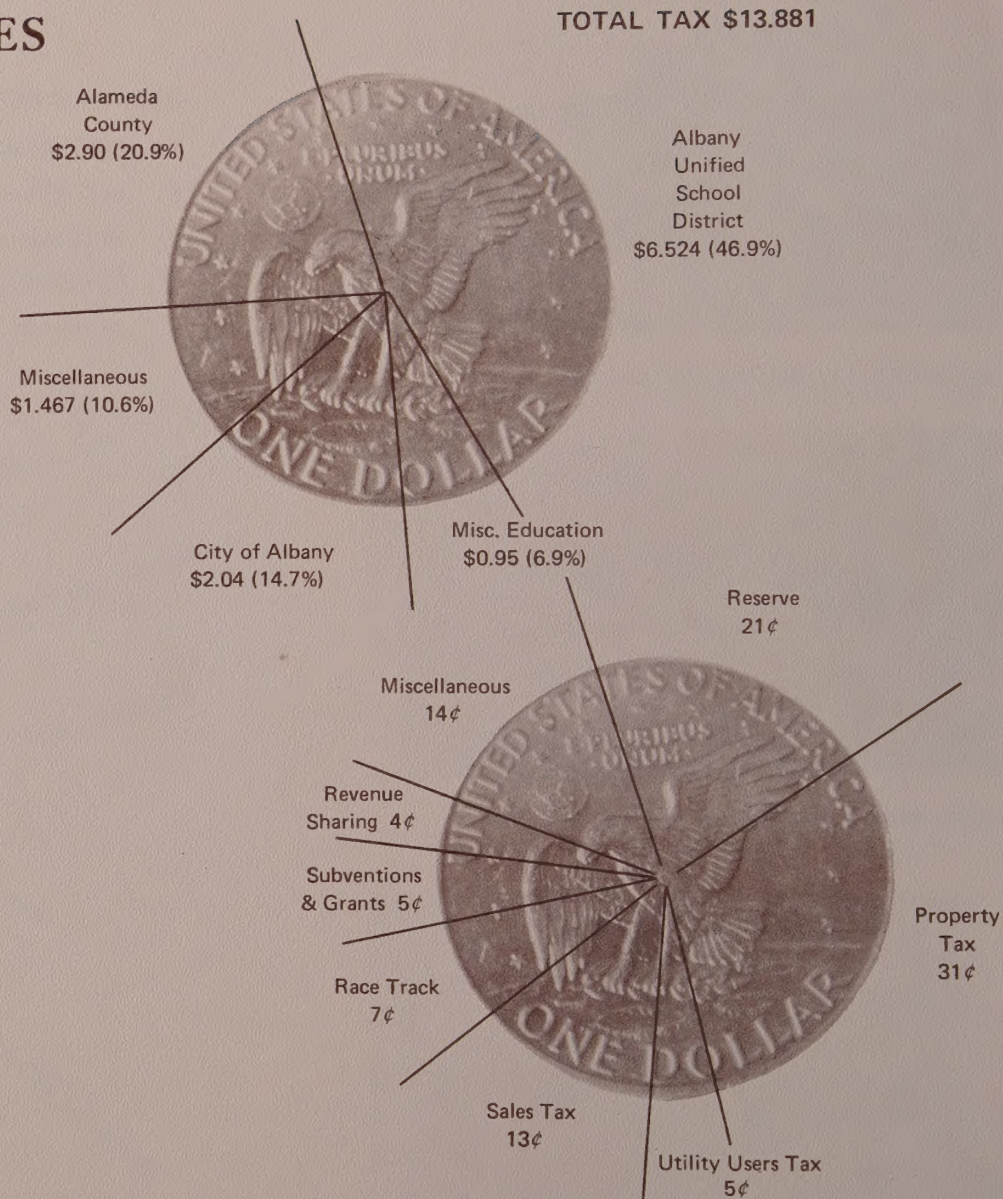
## 1973 - 74

Throughout the nation, the property tax is the major source of revenue for local units of government. These include cities, counties, school districts, and special districts. In the City of Albany, as elsewhere, city services are supported to a large degree by the property tax.

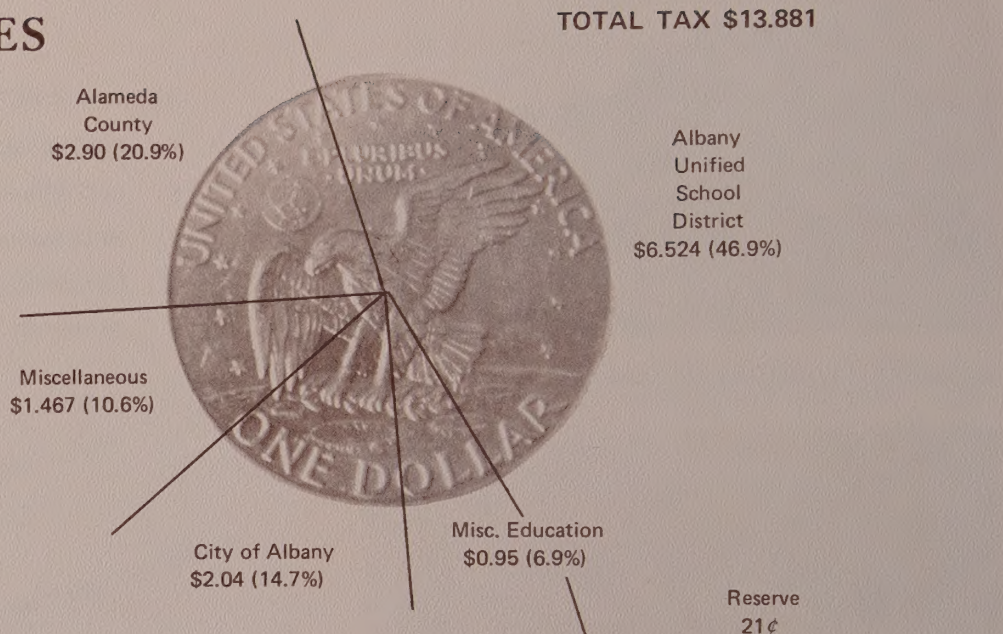
THE CHART TO YOUR RIGHT INDICATES HOW YOUR TAX DOLLAR IS SHARED.



**CITY EXPENDITURES**  
(per Dollar)



**SOURCES OF REVENUE**  
(per Dollar)



**TOTAL TAX \$13.881**





ELLIS-OLSON MORTUARY (ALBANY)



COMPUTER ELECTIONS INCORPORATED  
One of Albany's Modern Businesses



ALBANY HIGH SCHOOL

## ALBANY'S FUTURE IS SUPPORTED BY:

- FINE GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION
- ACCESSIBILITY & FREEWAY SYSTEMS
- WELL-MANAGED GOVERNMENT SERVICES
- EXTENSIVE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
- GATEVIEW AT ALBANY HILL

SAVINGS & LOANS - 2  
AVERAGE FAMILY INCOME - \$11,278.

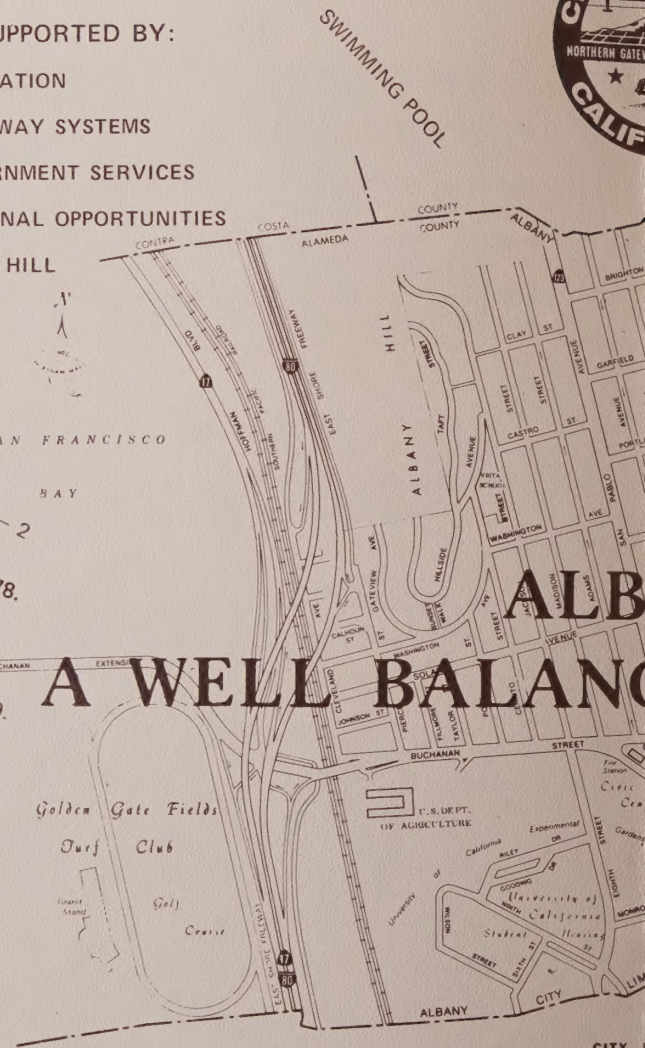
ASSESSED VALUE - \$27,930,339.

HOSPITAL

EXTENSIVE RETAIL FACILITIES

MEDICAL BUILDINGS - 2

PRE-SCHOOLS - 2



**A WELL BALANCED**





ANY  
TED COMMUNITY  
THE

AP of  
**ANY**

PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS - 3

MULTIPLE DWELLINGS - 2,156

SINGLE FAMILY HOMES - 4,240

AREA - 2 square miles

MORTUARY

COMMERCIAL BANKS - 2

POPULATION — 15,561

CHURCHES - 7



U.S. WESTERN REGIONAL RESEARCH  
LABORATORY - ALBANY

GOLDEN GATE FIELDS – ALBANY



MASONIC AVENUE AFTER  
BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAM





ALBANY'S MODERN EQUIPMENT

The steady increase in criminal activities, along with the recent court decisions, demand a high degree of training and education for today's Police Officers. Albany Police are efficiently meeting that demand. Continual training combined with extensive education has placed Albany's Police Department high in efficiency for law enforcement.

Albany's police equipment and facilities are gradually being modernized to keep pace with the rapid stride of progress. Albany's affiliation with Police Information Network, headquartered in Oakland, now enables traffic police, who have an occasion to stop motorists, to determine whether the car has been stolen or if there are any warrants outstanding against the license number, all within approximately 20 seconds after contact with Albany Police Headquarters.

Albany's recently installed computer system gives access to PIN connection, a national network, which has resulted in the saving of time and expense.

# ALBANY POLICE DEPARTMENT



The diversity of duties in the modern Police Department makes it necessary that assignments are on a basis of related functions necessary to insure coordination and accomplishment in all fields of Police work.

Today, rising traffic volumes have added an additional work burden to the department. Extensive training prepares the Officer in traffic control, reduction of accidents, protection for the pedestrian and in ambulance service. A mobilized radar unit adds greatly to the effectiveness of Albany's traffic control.



ALBANY RADAR CONTROL



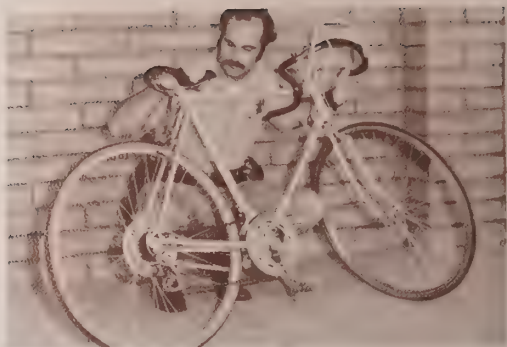
IDENTIFICATION WORK

The City of Albany Police Department provides Albany citizens with a high level of protection and service. Highly trained men and women work 24 hours a day to protect lives and property, prevent crimes and to maintain law and order.

Identification plays a major role in police work. With today's Court System relying more than ever before on physical evidence, provisions must be made to meet this demand. An Officer must be fully qualified in the identification field to expertly testify in Court. Extensive training in this field has paid large dividends in the Albany Police Department.

Each Albany patrol unit is equipped with an identification kit and all Officers are capable of making the search and securing fingerprints and related evidence.





BICYCLE DETAIL

With the increase in the popularity of the bicycle, there has also been an increase in problems pertaining to the field.

Albany Police Department has assigned one of its Officers to produce a program for the education, safety and protection of the bicycle owner.

Acting as counselor to bicycle owners, the Officer will conduct an extensive safety and educational program. He will also supervise the licensing of all local bicycles that will be recorded in the computer system. The computer system is designed to assist in the reduction of bicycle thefts through the identification of the bicycle with the description available throughout the entire State.

# ALBANY POLICE DEPARTMENT



Extensive training, both theoretical and practical, plays a very major role in the training of the modern Police Officer.

Practical training familiarizes the trainee not only with methods but also with the expert use of the department equipment. A recent policy of training fire and police members together in certain incidents has paid dividends in both training and in cooperation.

Police Officers are encouraged to continue formal education in the Police Science Field. The Department also has available an Educational Incentive Program for the education of Police Officers.



GAS MASK TRAINING



JUVENILE DETAIL

The concept of Police Community Relations is not limited to the professional public relations effort to improve the image of law enforcement in the community. It includes the involvement of the police in the life of our city as well as the enlistment of total community support of law enforcement.

This is probably indicated more in the juvenile portion of Albany's Police Department than in any other branch.

Albany's Juvenile Officer emphasizes the importance of maintaining a liaison with the youths of our community as well as the School Officials.

The Juvenile Officer handles all investigations of crimes committed by or against juveniles. He also investigates narcotic violations and conducts educational programs relating to drugs.



# PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT



Children's Playground  
Memorial Park

The Park and Recreation Department was first organized in 1935 under the Federal Work Projects Administration. It became the sole responsibility of the City of Albany to finance the department in 1942. Constant demands by the public for the extension of recreation programs and facilities are being met by your Department of Parks and Recreation, now in its 38th year of providing services to the people of Albany.

## ACQUISITION AND OPEN SPACE

Interstate General Corporation, through its planned development of 2500 units on Albany Hill, has donated to the City of Albany for permanent open space approximately 10 acres of property located both on the top and on the northeast corner of the Albany Hill.

## PROGRAMMING

In a search for new and diverse programs, all age groups in the City of Albany are considered. Cooperative Pre-school, Peter Pan Club, Day Camps, Cooking, Cake Decorating, Tennis Lessons, Volleyball and Basketball Leagues and Senior Citizens activities are a few of the many offered.



View from 10 acres of  
Albany Hill Open Space

## MASTER STREET TREE PROGRAM

A Master Street Tree plan has been adopted with uniform planting planned throughout the City.

## RENOVATIONS

Pomona Avenue in Memorial Park has been disbanded as a street with complete renovation. Four basketball and volleyball courts, patio area, trees and landscaping have been added. Tennis courts have been brought up to tournament standards.

## GENERAL PLAN FOR PARKS AND RECREATION

A General Plan for Parks and Recreation has been undergoing continual revision since 1969. The Department looks forward to having the final plan adopted by the end of 1973 and setting into motion the priorities as set forth. "Recreation" is undoubtedly the most diversified term in the present-day English language.



One of Albany's Tree Lined Streets



Albany's Senior Citizen and Pre-School Center

The constant demand by the public for more and better recreation programs and facilities is being met by your Department of Parks and Recreation in providing services to the people of Albany. A new participation high in all program areas has become a standard. Playgrounds, community center activities, sports, instructional activities all show increases as people make wiser use of their leisure time.





ALBANY'S FIRE HOUSE, 1910



ALBANY'S MODERN STATION TODAY



ALBANY'S FIREHOUSE, 1915

Sixty-four years ago our citizens realized that for a city to survive, even in its infancy, it must have adequate fire protection. As a result, the Albany Volunteer Fire Department was formed December 20, 1909.

As Albany grew, and as conditions changed, the department gradually modernized. In the year 1914, a new fire station was built at 801 San Pablo Avenue. The following year, the city's first piece of motorized equipment replaced the old hand-drawn fire carts, the first paid fireman was hired and a new Gamewell alarm system was added.

It has been in the last ten years that the fire fighting facilities in Albany have taken their greatest stride in progress and advancement. Today, the fire service in Albany has a record that ranks high among the departments on the Pacific Coast. This is attested by the very favorable report following the Board of Underwriters' recent survey and by the recognition the department has received from the National Chamber of Commerce in Washington, D.C.

Among the many awards received by the department was a resolution passed by the State Assembly, California Legislature, commending the department for its outstanding record in fire suppression and fire prevention.

Recent additions to the overall protective network of the fire service in Albany reflects the concern and interest that the present City Council has shown towards the safety of Albany's citizenry. Today, a network of alarm boxes covers the entire city while a strategic distribution of fire hydrants adequately supplies water for emergency purposes throughout the city.

The Albany Fire Department has been recently provided with modern equipment that will aid greatly in their fight against civilization's most destructive elements. The modern equipment, the extensive training, the cooperation received from other city departments, plus the fact that every man in the department, from the Chief to the newest recruit, is still governed by that same spirit of loyalty and self-sacrifice which the volunteer firemen of sixty-four years ago established as a tradition of the department, has greatly aided the department in its work.





## A CITY IN MOTION



Albany's snorkle that was built under specifications designed for Albany has proven outstanding at fires.



Periodic Department Head meetings afford preparations for coming events and assist in solving departmental problems.



Band concert at Memorial Park enhances an outing with beautiful surroundings.



Recreational activities are programmed to benefit both children and senior citizens.



Cooperation between Albany's Fire Prevention Officer and the City Building Inspector has added to the efficiency of both departments.



Albany Employees' Safety Committee represents each City Department and meets once a month to assist in a safety campaign to eliminate hazards.





Many of Albany's streets are lined by beautiful trees maintained by the Park Department.



Capable nurses conduct periodical health clinics.



Extensive study and drilling adds to the efficiency of emergency work.



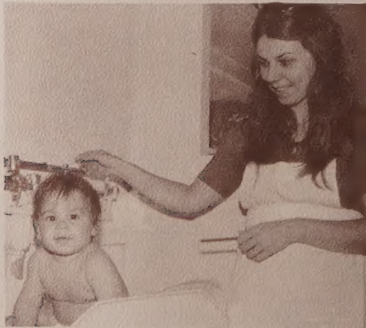
Albany's Animal Control Officer is also in charge of Business License enforcement.



Albany Police Reserves are efficiently trained by the regular Police Department.



University Village in Albany offers a beautiful apartment area for married students.



The Well Baby Clinic in Albany has been very popular.

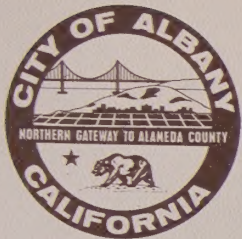


Albany receives Fire Prevention Award from Lieutenant Governor of California.



Efficient crossing guards protect school children.





ALBANY PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION



ALBANY CIVIL SERVICE BOARD



TRAFFIC AND SAFETY COMMISSION



PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION



PENSION FUND COMMISSIONERS



# GATEVIEW AT ALBANY HILL



HIGH RISE SITE BEFORE BUILDING STARTED



ARCHITECTURAL MODEL OF GATEVIEW AT ALBANY HILL

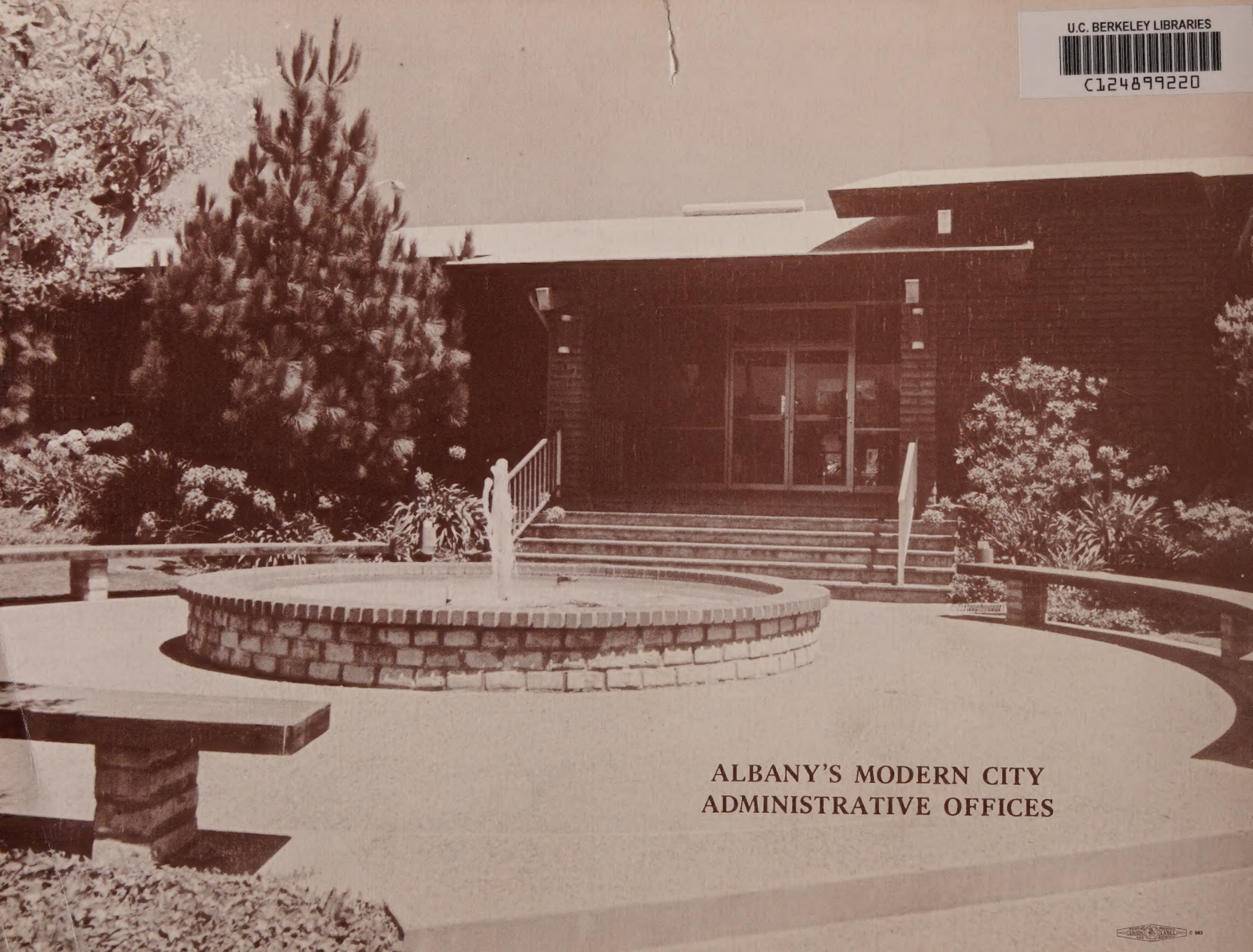
Gateview is a large, high rise residential community presently under construction at the base of Albany Hill. The building site for the new buildings contains that portion of the hill that was severely scarred from quarrying operations in 1940. Motorcycle paths had further defaced the area.

Approximately 24 acres of area has been provided in open space, without the use of public funds, for naturalist-oriented use and family type of outdoor recreation. Public open space to complement the City's existing facilities as well as the needs of the project area itself, can be created.

Recreational features to specifically serve the residents of the project will include tennis courts, swimming pools, handball, sauna, et cetera, within the project boundaries. Landscaped garden courts, terraces and patios, as well as hillside paths and picnic areas, will be available to enhance the environment of the resident as well as the visitor.

This development of 2500 housing units will have a significant impact on Albany and the Bay Region as well. An analysis of the project's economic impact on the City of Albany has indicated that the project will have a very favorable impact on the tax base and, thus, upon both the School System and the General Fund. This, in addition to sales taxes, cigarette taxes, utility taxes, subventions and grants, will all assist Albany's tax structure.





ALBANY'S MODERN CITY  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES